



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LT. GOVERNOR

KEVIN M. BURKE
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services

P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For Immediate Release: December 18, 2008
Contact: Jennifer Mieth, (978) 567-3381

Recruit Firefighters Graduate State Firefighting Academy

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund M. Walker are pleased to announce the graduation of the 182nd Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's sixty-day Recruit Firefighting Program on December 18, 2008. Coan said, "This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely." The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free. The ceremony took place at the Assabet Vocational Regional High School in Marlborough, MA.

65 Graduates from 38 Fire Departments

The 65 graduates, 63 men and 2 women, represent the 38 departments of Acton, Agawam, Amesbury, Auburn, Beverly, Charlton, Cohasset, Danvers, Dennis, Framingham, Hanson, Hingham, Holbrook, Hudson, Kingston, Leominster, Longmeadow, Lowell, Ludlow, Manchester, Marshfield, Maynard, Medford, Methuen, Northampton, Orleans, Plymouth, Raynham, Scituate, Shrewsbury, Somerset, Southborough, Stoneham, Sutton, Swampscott, Wellesley, Weston, and Wilmington.

Massachusetts State Trooper Michael Peters assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, a former Randolph Firefighter and graduate of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, addressed the recruits.

Today's Fire Department Does Much More than Fight Fires

Today's firefighters do far more than fight fires. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to a gas leak. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those who are trapped in vehicle accidents. They test and maintain their equipment, ranging from self-contained breathing apparatus to hydrants to hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy they learn all these skills and more from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters. Students learn all the basic skills they need to respond to fires and to contain and control them. They are also given training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, water rescue procedures, confined space rescue techniques, and rappelling. The intensive, 12-week program for municipal firefighters; involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live fire firefighting practice.

Basic Firefighter Skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are eligible to be certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.